

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HARRIS RANCH
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2004**

Members Attending

Verne Crookshanks, Chairman
Tony Wollenman
Stephen Patricio
Jim Simonian
Robert Ferini, Jr.
Jerry Prieto, Jr.

CDFA Representatives

Rick Jensen
Gary Manning
Stacey Hughes
Steve Patton
Susan Shelton

Interested Parties

Rob Neenan, GTFL
Tom Oliveri, WGA

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Verne Crookshanks called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. Gary Manning called the roll and a quorum was not established. The meeting convened.

ITEM 2: COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Gary Manning introduced the two new members that were present at the meeting. Tony Wollenman represents citrus and is filling the seat previously held by Bob Blakely. Robert Ferini represents lettuce and is filling the seat previously held by Tom Nunes.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

Approval of minutes will be held until the next meeting when a quorum will be present.

ITEM 4: EXPERIMENTAL CONTAINER UPDATE

Gary Manning gave the committee a graph, showing the number of experimental container requests that were received from January 2004 through October 2004. These numbers were broken down by county and commodity group. During this time there were 47 requests for experimental containers and no requests for adoption. In the 2003 season there were 90 permit requests and one container was adopted.

These results show that the audits being performed by the county agricultural commissioners' offices are helping to ensure that experimental containers are being used appropriately. The next audit results will be reported at the March meeting.

ITEM 5: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A. STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

Gary Manning reported that the extension of the sunset clause to 2010 was passed.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY LEGISLATION

The White Paper on AB 869 was handed out to the committee. This bill would give the County Agricultural Commissioners the authority to fine, thus by-passing the current requirement that violations go through the DA's office. Jerry Prieto stated that the ability to fine would address various problems that would help support grower credibility, food safety, etc.

As the bill has currently stalled, Verne Crookshanks suggested that Western Growers or the Grape and Tree Fruit League (GTFL) now be the bill's sponsor.

ITEM 6: COMMODITY UPDATES

A. GRAPE AND TREE FRUIT CONTAINERS

Rob Neenan from the GTFL reported on the activities of their ad hoc committee. This committee was formed due to their concern with the proliferation of consumer packs and their lack of standardization. Though the committee came up with a number of options, ultimately they were unable to agree on any of the possible recommendations. The issue has stalled and there are no current plans to continue.

B. TOMATO STANDARDS

Gary Manning reported on the recent salmonella found in tomatoes in Florida. Due to this outbreak there has been considerable talk within the tomato industry regarding food safety. Gary is submitting a legal referral to CDFA's legal office to discuss the viability of the Standardization Program adopting USDA's Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices.

C. SEEDLESS CITRUS

Gary Manning told the committee that the Clementine industry recently called to ask for the policy on tolerance for seedless mandarins. It was found that

currently, there is no standardization policy on tolerance for mandarins. CDFA is now working with UC, Riverside to write a tolerance policy. All haste is being made to write and place the policy into regulation.

ITEM 7: STATUS OF COUNTY CONTRACTS

Gary Manning gave the committee a handout that listed the budgeted and actual expenses for county standardization contracts for the 2003/2004 fiscal year. This report also gave the proposed amount for county contracts for the fiscal year of 2004/2005. These amounts will be voted on at the next committee meeting.

ITEM 8: TRANSFER OF STANDARDIZATION FUNDS TO NAVAL AND VALENCIA PROGRAM

Gary Manning reported that \$108,000 was moved from the Standardization Program to the Navel and Valencia Program.

ITEM 9: STATE AND COUNTY ENFORCEMENT RESULTS

Gary Manning gave each committee member a handout that reported the enforcement hours from January 2004 through September 2004. The totals were broken down by month, district, and how the time was spent (i.e. field work, office work, training, travel, etc.) The following totals were reported:

Total Hours	6,325
Total Containers Inspected	4,071,764
Total Containers Rejected	163,048
Percent Rejected	4%

ITEM 10: BUDGET STATUS REPORT

A. REVENUE AND FUND BALANCE

Gary Manning distributed a copy of the Revenue/Expenditures/Fund Balance Report for 2003 and 2004.

ITEM 11: NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Nomination of officers will be held until the next meeting when a quorum will be present.

ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ITEM 13: NEXT MEETING

To be scheduled in March 2005.

ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Manning, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch

GM/ss